Special points of interest:

- Dr. Alex Chaparro is the new Department Chair
- Dr. Barbara Chaparro is now HF PhD Program Coordinator
- Dr. Darwin Dorr Continues as Clinical PhD Program Coordinator
- Dr. Greg Meissen is now Community PhD Program Coordinator
- 7 PhDs were awarded Fall 2009 - Spring 2010

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Newsletter compiled by Lukas Hulsey, 4th yr HF

Department Chair Transition

From Charlie:
Well, as of July 1, I am no longer chair - WHAT A RELIEF. Alex Chaparro, who succeeded me on that date, is an excellent choice who will lead the department as we work our way through tough financial times.

My 28 years as department chair was a long and exciting run, from a Masters only program with 9 to 12 hour teaching loads to three Ph.D. programs with 6 hour teaching loads. It was a real team effort which I was privileged to lead.

BUT, I’m not retiring. I’ll be increasing my activities with the Social Science Research Laboratory and spending a lot more time with my students and my research. Anyway, I’ll be around so stay in touch.

From Alex:
Thanks to everyone that sent congratulatory notes regarding my new assignment. I am humbled by the confidence that my colleagues have in me and excited by the prospect of continuing to work closely with a group of faculty and graduate students who have the distinction of being among the most productive and accomplished at WSU.

The department made huge strides under Charlie’s leadership and I hope to continue that upward trajectory by continuing to strengthen the doctoral programs and increasing the visibility of the department not only within the university but nationally.

Department at a Glance

The WSU Psychology Department team is comprised of 16 faculty members, two office staff professionals, and 68 active graduate students. In the past two years, our Psychology Department team produced 38 professional scientific publications, 118 presentations at professional social-science meetings, and obtained a total of 42 grants worth over seven-million dollars ($7,835,953). Dr. Alex Chaparro was recipient of the 2009 WSU Excellence in Research Award.
Clinical Alumna

Robin Heinrichs began her Ph.D. in the Community/Clinical program in 1998. At the end of her first year she gave birth to her first child (daughter Lauren) and took a few years off from full time training, moved to St. Louis and was a teaching assistant for psychopharmacology classes at University of Missouri St. Louis. In 2002 she moved back to Wichita, had her second child (son David) and a few months later returned to the CC program full time. As a graduate teaching assistant she taught Psychology of Personality most often. Her research was with MMPI-2 & MCMI-III with Dr. Dorr and she also worked at KU School of Medicine-Wichita as a psychometrist to gain experience in neuropsychology while completing graduate training. She graduated with her Community Clinical Ph.D. from WSU in 2007.

Dr. Heinrichs is currently a Neuropsychologist and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Kansas University School of Medicine-Wichita. Throughout her Ph.D. training she worked at KUSM as a psychometrist and as coordinator of NIH-funded research.

“When it was time for internship I was fortunate enough to be accepted into the KUSM neuropsychology/clinical internship. Post graduation I was accepted into the two-year neuropsychology fellowship at KUSM, where I completed the last part of the training required to work as a neuro-

(Continued on page 3)

Clinical Internships

Nationwide, pre-doctoral clinical psychology internships are getting scarce. Over the past several years only about 75% of clinical students nationally have secured internships. Four clinical students are currently completing APA approved internships.

Lisha Clark began her internship in August at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. The clinical internship is administered through the Department of Psychiatry at UTHSC, and includes rotations within the Department of Psychiatry as well as cooperating community agencies. She will be providing interdisciplinary assessments, consultation, and evidence-based therapy, including ABA and PCIT. Rotations will primarily focus on clinical work with children and their families. Additionally, she will be providing services to children in state custody, as well as adolescents through Juvenile Court.

Melissa Jenkins started her internship on August 3rd at Wasatch Mental Health in Provo, Utah. Wasatch Mental Health is a community mental health center serving a diverse population of children, youth and adults with acute and chronic mental illness. Internship experiences include individual outpatient psychotherapy with children, youth, adults and families, as well as outpatient group therapy, consultation, and psychological assessment in the areas of disability determination, parental fitness, psycho-sexual risk assessment, neuropsychological assessment, and general psychological evaluations.

Andrea Reed will begin her internship on September 1, 2010 with the Northeastern Oklahoma Psychology Internship Program in Tulsa, OK. Andrea will be spending 2/3 of her time at the Laureate Psychiatric Clinic and Hospital working with a multi-disciplinary team on the Adult Behavioral Health Unit. This is an inpatient crisis stabilization unit which provides acute and partial hospital services for adults requiring medical supervision for mental health issues which may include: danger to self or others, medication stabilization and detoxification. Her responsibilities will include psychosocial assessments, developing treatment plans, providing individual and family therapy, and facilitating group therapy. Andrea will also be spending 1/3 of her time at the University of Tulsa Counseling & Psychological Services Center providing a range of services, which may include therapy, consultation, and assessment to faculty/staff, undergraduate, graduate and law students at the university.

Shani R. Roberts began her internship at Community Healthlink Inc. in Worcester, MA and will be supervised by Anthony Irsfeld, PhD. Community Healthlink merged with Worcester Youth Guidance Center in 1997 and has recently joined the UMASS Memorial Healthcare System which is affiliated with the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Community Healthlink offers mental health, residential and treatment services for children, youth, adults and

(Continued on page 3)
Clinical Program Re-Accreditation

After years of work, the clinical program was accredited in 1995 by the Commission on Accreditation (CoA) for an initial period of five years. This was very happy news because new programs usually receive initial accreditation for only three years. However, five years go by fast!

One of the main goals of the clinical program over the past two years has been to secure re-accreditation by the CoA. During the 2008-2009 academic year the clinical students and faculty worked on what is known as the Self Study, a gargantuan manuscript with scads of appendices. The Self Study met the CoA deadline of September 1, 2009 and was reviewed by the Commission reviewers. A program’s Self Study must be judged to be adequate by the CoA before it will allow a Site Visit to proceed. Apparently the effort we put into the Self Study was successful, and we were granted a Site Visit March 29th and 30th, 2010. A Site Visit always raises anxiety but, at the same time, we are very proud of our program and were eager to show it off. An enormous amount of work went into preparation for the visit. The Site Visitors were pleasant and professional but very thorough in their inspection. Their oral review and final formal report cited several things that they suggested we attend to but, overall, their report was favorable. We responded to the issues that the Site Visit Team raised and made changes where necessary.

The Psychology Department is pleased to announce that on August 10th, we received notification that the CoA has re-accredited the program for a period of 5 years!

The Commission on Accreditation has re-accredited the Clinical program for another 5 years!

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Recent Clinical Graduates

Sonya Padilla (Spring 2010) “Relationship of MMPI-2 RC Demoralization scale to MCMI-III scales in psychiatric inpatients”

Stacy Barner (Spring 2010) “Response to a graphic film as a function of levels of experimental avoidance: Implications for the application of ACT in the treatment of PTSD”

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"Alumna" Continued from page 2

psychologist. After fellowship I accepted an offer from KUSM to join their faculty.”

"In my work I supervise training of a neuropsychology intern and two neuropsychology fellows, I teach psychiatry residents and supervise medical students and I conduct neuropsychological evaluations of patients in Via Christi Hospitals and with outpatients in our KUSM Neuropsychology Clinic. Our group has ongoing research in the areas of neuropsychological testing of geriatric adults, assessment and differentiation of epileptic and non-epileptic seizure patients and neuropsychological assessment of outpatients (including those with traumatic brain injury, stroke, neurologic disease, dementia, brain tumor and anoxic injury). My work and research includes forensic neuropsychological evaluation.”

“Our research is highly collaborative; Lyle Baade, Ph.D. is the other neuropsychologist on the KUSM faculty who is involved in all of my research. Our trainees are involved in ongoing research and all have presented research at national neuropsychology conferences, including our psychometrists who are current Ph.D. trainees at WSU; Angela Burgess, Ron Partridge and Blake Webster. I have been involved in research with psychiatry residents, medical students, epileptologists, neurocritical care specialists, neurologists, public health professionals and others. In short, I am always looking for interesting questions to investigate and mutually beneficial relationships through which collaborative research can be conducted.”

“The cognitive behavioral framework that is the basis of WSU’s clinical training provided a strong base for my neuropsychology training. As psychologists we are trained to be astute observers and analyzers of human behavior. This skill allows us to look at a person and his/her experiences and environment along with data about their current functioning and solve the puzzle of what is wrong and why. I can’t imagine a more gratifying and enjoyable job!”

“My two children have grown and Lauren age 11 is starting middle school and David age 8 is starting second grade. Several years ago Elizabeth Ablah (a WSU Community Ph.D. graduate and friend) set me up on a blind date with Michael Kopf. This led to marriage in August 2009. My family grew to also include two delightful step-daughters; Caitlin age 17 and Lacy age 15. You just never know what you will gain from graduate training at WSU."

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"Internships" Continued from page 2

families in Massachusetts. Interns provide outpatient individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, consultation, and assessments with children, youth, adults and families. Additional experiences include providing mental health services through clinical placements in other Community Healthlink programs such as Victim Services, Early Childhood Mental Health Services and School Support Services.

("Alumna" Continued from page 2)

("Internships" Continued from page 2)
Community Program

The Community Psychology Doctoral program had a great year as we continue to grow in national and local prominence as one of the top community psychology programs in the country. Like so many outstanding things in Kansas and WSU, our Community Psychology program has a greater national prominence than here at home.

At our national conference last June, the Biennial Conference on Community Research and Action, students and faculty had numerous presentations, symposium and research posters and one of our alums, Louis Brown was awarded the Emory Cowen Dissertation Award. Dr. Rhonda Lewis-Moss led a WSU team that also included Chris Kirk, Felicia Lee, Jamila Sly & Shoshana Wernick in conducting the evaluation of the conference. The WSU Community Psychology program was more than well represented at the recent International Community Psychology Conference held in this June in Puebla, Mexico as we had more of our people there than any program from the United States. WSU students and faculty presented papers, were part of round-table discussions, delivered research posters and served as mentors for community psychologists newer to the field. Not only were we there to present research and get feedback from an international audience but to continue our deliberate and intentional work toward greater diversity in our program. Our incoming class of six community psychology doctoral students reflects these efforts with our most culturally diverse class ever.

Our graduates continue to excel making the communities in which they live better places. In the case of Mildred Edwards, she is working hard to make Kansas higher education better with her recent appointment to the Kansas Board of Regents by Governor Mark Parkinson. Mildred will bring her community advocacy and organizational development skills to the Board at a pivotal time for Kansas. Louis Brown has just moved to El Paso, Texas to become part of the faculty in public health at the University of Texas, El Paso. Michelle Redmond became part of the faculty at the KU School of Medicine, Crystal Rinehart earlier in the year accepted the Coordinator of Research Programs at the Center for Prevention Research and Development at the University of Illinois, and Dina Elias-Rodas just accepted a faculty position in community psychology at the University of Miami.

Our current students are dedicated, hard working and intellectually talented and are also involved in community psychology at a national level. Sharon Hakim was recently (Continued on page 5)

Community

Congratulations to Dr. Greg Meissen, recently elected to serve as Community Ph.D. Program Coordinator.

3rd International Conference on Community Psychology

In June, students and faculty from Wichita State’s Community Psychology Program traveled to Puebla, Mexico for the 3rd International Conference on Community Psychology. With a theme of “Community Agendas on Contemporary Social Problems,” the Conference drew participants from all over the world (Latin America, Europe, Australia, Japan, Africa, and North America) to share current research and practice in Community Psychology. Symposia, roundtables, and poster presentations were contributed by those from Wichita State including Oli Dziadkowiec, Emily Grant, Sharon Hakim, Ashlee Keele-Lien, Chris Kirk and Greg Meissen.

The 3rd International Conference illustrated clearly that Community Psychology is a growing, global field with diverse emphases, emerging research methods, and promising partnerships with communities around the world.
**Community Alumna**

Dr. Mildred Edwards has obtained three degrees from Wichita State University: Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration, a MPH, and a Ph.D. in Community Psychology. All of Mildred’s research has focused on reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS on at risk and/or populations of color. The focus of research in her public health program targeted heterosexual women and during an internship at Family Health Institute in RTP, NC she analyzed cognitive data from female sex workers in Mombasa, Kenya authoring “Thinking Aloud to Create Better Condom Use Questions” Field Methods, Vol. 17, no. 2 (2005). While pursuing her Ph.D., Mildred worked with Dr. Rhonda Lewis Moss to study the HIV risk behaviors of African American adolescents beginning with an analysis of condom use behaviors in her second year research project and later the impact of single parentage on condom use throughout her dissertation.

Presently Mildred is the Executive Director of the Kansas African American Affairs Commission in the Office of the Governor. Acting as a liaison to a board of seven Commissioners representing four legislative districts and the Governor’s office, she works to address issues of equity for African Americans and serves as a conduit for programs, legislation, grants, research, and policy advice for state and local organizations. Mildred believes the knowledge gained in her community psychology program is critical to her day to day success. In particular, an understanding of the impact of policy related decisions on population outcomes, and the need to connect and leverage resources to effectively implement sustainable systems change have been beneficial.

After many years serving in leadership roles on not-for-profit governance boards, working to mobilize communities through non-profit organizational initiatives, volunteering on political campaigns, and completing her doctoral degree as a community psychologist focused on decreasing disparity, Mildred believes pursuing a social justice/policy related position was a natural next step in her career. She is presently working to analyze data and create a “State of African Americans in Kansas” document that includes not only incidence and prevalence data, but will also show how our State legislature fared in decreasing disparities during the 2010 session. The docu-

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**Youth Empowerment Implementation Project**

Dr. Lewis-Moss is the PI on a recently funded Office of Minority Health grant called the Youth Empowerment Implementation Project. A partnership program with Gordon Parks Academy, Mental Health Association, Grant Chapel AME, Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas, and the Center for Health and Wellness. The grant is $300,000 per year for 3 years. Project goals are to encourage career exploration, increase physical fitness and academic achievement among low-income youth.

(“Community” Continued from page 4)

elected to the SCRA Council of Education Programs and continues to be an active member of the SCRA Council on Community Psychology Practice. She is doing an internship this summer with Bill Neigher at Atlantic Health, who ran for SCRA President. Oli Dziadkowiec and Chris Kirk are also members of the Practice Council as is incoming student Kyrah Brown who just graduated from Spelman College in Atlanta.

The faculty continues to be deeply involved in community psychology at the national level, state and local level. Rhonda Lewis-Moss is on the Executive Committee of SCRA and Greg Meissen is a founder and co-chair of the SCRA Practice Council which has done some excellent work including the launch of the new Global Journal of Community Psychology Practice. Lou Medvene among many other activities continues his research and community work on the development of more effective and sustained caregiver and resident relationships particularly in long term care facilities which has impacts at the national and local level. Charlie Burdsal, retired as Chair of Psychology after serving the Department so well for 28 years, is anything but retired as a faculty member in the community psychology program and will have more time to commit to the growth and excellence of our program. While active at the national level, our students, graduates and faculty have an even greater impact in their own communities and in Kansas.

We enter a new decade of great promise for community based research and intervention which Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, has called a time for a greatly enhanced community and public health. This is a great time for community psychology nationally and community psychology at WSU.
Community Practica

The community psychology program works to customize practica experiences for students typically in the third year of the program. Below are some recent and current practica that show the diversity and breadth of experience. All these practica are paid in the $10,000 - $12,500 range for 10 hours/week for a year. It is not unusual for practica to lead to further opportunities and jobs.

Karen Countryman-Roswurm has completed the summer session of her practicum with the Wichita Children’s Home (WCH) under the supervision of WSU Community Psychology graduate and WCH Executive Director, Sarah Robinson. Karen serves as the Coordinator of Anti-Sexual Exploitation Services. Practicum tasks include the coordination and facilitation of a multi-disciplinary team aimed at prevention and intervention services for youth at risk of and/or involved in sexual exploitation; developing and implementing a risk and resiliency tool to identify and more effectively serve sexual exploitation survivors; creating and training teen girls staff on a model to more effectively meet the needs of sexually exploited youth; and public policy development regarding the sexual exploitation of Kansas youth.

Oliwier Dziadkowiec served his practicum at the Kansas Health Institute (KHI) in Topeka working on a public health team. He cleaned, screened, and analyzed data collected through the social capital benchmark survey of 5 Kansas communities (Abilene, Kansas City, Garden City, Junction City, and Wichita). Social capital in this project was defined as “connections among individuals-social networks and norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them” (Putnam, 2000). He also worked on KHI’s public policy team and helped evaluate a project called Legislative Health Academy. Legislative Health Academy consists of seminars for Kansas legislators that are aimed at increasing their knowledge about public health problems, awareness of ethical considerations related to public health decision making, and leadership skills.

Emily Grant just completed her practicum at the KU School of Medicine – Wichita working in the Preventive Medicine and Public Health department under the supervision of WSU graduate Dr. Elizabeth Ablah. She served as program coordinator for Wichita’s Initiative to Renew the Environment (WIRE). WIRE was funded by a Community Action to Renew the Environment co-operative agreement from the Environmental Protection Agency. A large part of the practicum was related to the creation of WIRE’s Environmental Leadership Council. After talking to 1500 people in the Wichita area, WIRE determined that the top three environmental concerns were: 1) Mobile Source Air Pollution (from vehicles); 2) the Arkansas River; and 3) Waste Disposal. WIRE submitted a grant proposal to the EPA to address these top 3 issues in Wichita beginning in October.

Justin Greenleaf begins his practicum with the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) whose mission is to foster civic leadership for healthier Kansas communities. Justin, with direction from WSU faculty and the KLC staff, will work to create the KLC Online Experience. This web based learning and collaboration initiative is being created to promote civic leadership development in Kansas through distance education. Utilizing a blended learning approach, Justin will work closely with the KLC design team to create a flexible and sustainable environment in which the KLC theories, concepts, and practices can be shared statewide via the internet.

Sharon Hakim completed a summer practicum with Atlantic Health Systems in Morristown, NJ. She worked with the Department of Planning and Systems Development in designing a hospital-wide “Healing Cultures” initiative focusing on patient empowerment and total health (not simply recovery from illness), for implementation in their hospitals starting in 2011. She was involved in organization-wide research and discussions around strategically planning the hospitals in the new era of healthcare reform.

Lisette T. Jacobson started her pre-doctoral internship in Community Psychology with the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas Medical School, Wichita. She is working under the supervision of Dr. Ruth Wetta-Hall, Assistant Professor and Director of Research and Evaluation Associates in Community and Clinical Health (REACH Center), who is also a graduate of the Community Psychology program. The internship focuses on the development and evaluation of youth preventive intervention programs including the Pure and Simple Life curriculum, an abstinence education program in the Wichita metropolitan area, and the Pursue Your Dreams programs with Future Leaders Outreach Network in the Kansas City area.

Ashlee Keele-Lien is completing her practicum with the Nomar Community Development Corporation (CDC). The Nomar CDC is focused on creating economic self-sufficiency for a disadvantaged community of Wichita while valuing the diversity, heritage, and culture of the community. An international market has been created to support economic development, trainings, and cultural activities. Ashlee will be providing assistance with the development of business and community relationships in the Nomar (Continued on page 7)
Class Project Leads to Funded Grant

As part of Dr. Meissen’s Psych 942, Organizational and Community Intervention, Sharon Hakim worked with the Moldovan non-governmental organization, Central de Dezbateri - Criuleni, to write and submit a water sanitation grant proposal to the Paris based Foundation Ensemble. Their proposal, “Water for Learning: Ensuring Rural Schools have Access to Clean Water,” combined education, public advocacy, and structural improvements.

Although progress has been made in water sanitation within Moldova since it gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the Republic does not yet have the financial ability to renovate its public institutions. Rural schools, in particular, have inadequate infrastructure. They do not have plumbing; rather they get their water from a well on or near the school grounds, and transport the water to the school with a bucket. Wells are often contaminated; as are stagnant stores of water inside the school building.

"Water for Learning" proposed low-cost, easily maintained infrastructure improvements, including direct tubing between the wells and the schools, as well as water sanitation education programs, and a student leadership component. (In the past, many water sanitation projects were not attempted because total infrastructure replacement cost was seen as too large). The original proposal aimed to implement these improvements in four schools across the region of Criuleni. The project was awarded funds for a demonstration case of one school. If significant improvements are realized after the completion of the year-long demonstration, funds will be made available by the Foundation Ensemble to spread the model across the region. Central de Dezbateri - Criuleni volunteers will begin project implementation in October, 2010.

(“Practica” Continued from page 6)

district, network with local agencies to collaborate on projects, complete evaluations of the market, and provide assistance in finding and completing grants to support ongoing operation of the Nomar market.

Chris Kirk is completing his practicum at the Center for Health Equity, a division of the Sedgwick County Health Department. The Center’s mission is to address health disparities, healthcare access, and the social determinants of health in Sedgwick County. Chris is currently developing issue briefs to inform both community members and policy makers about health issues which affect County residents. He will coordinate a county-wide project to raise community awareness around issues of health and enhance grassroots efforts to affect health policy. Using photovoice techniques, the project will engage groups in documenting assets and obstacles to health in their community using photographs, stories, and group discussion.

Felecia Lee is completing her practicum at the Kansas University School of Medicine and she works with Dr. Gina Berg (Human Factors Graduate). She is currently working with the Wesley Trauma Department on completing research for their evaluation process. Upcoming projects include assessing newly implemented programs, projects and committees at Wesley hospital (specifically the Trauma Department) as well as assisting in developing effective protocols for Wesley Trauma.

Rochelle Rowley finished her practicum at Catholic Charities of Wichita in the Logic model development, and collaboration building between four sites in Kansas.

(“Alumna” Continued from page 5)

ment is intended to aid not only the community in developing targeted interventions, but will serve as an advocacy tool for the legislative body, as well. Additionally, Mildred is planning for the Kansas sesquicentennial celebration in January 2011 and is working to ensure African American history is reflected in Kansas community based celebrations.

Mildred has recently been appointed to the Kansas Board of Regents and is one of two Kansas Delegates selected to the Drexel University Institute of Medicine Vision 2020 project. A servant leader for life, she presently serves as the Vice President for the Wichita Chapter of Links, Inc., State chair of the NAACP health committee, and is a member of the WSU Alumni Association Board of Directors, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Junior League of Wichita. In her free time she enjoys learning more about African American history and the rich cultural history of Kansas.

Dr. Edwards is the proud mother of a wonderful daughter Leah and her husband Will Peoples. When asked to summarize her life, Mildred states she is abundantly blessed and life is good!
Human Factors Program

I am pleased to be named the next coordinator of the Human Factors program. Our program continues to grow in funding and productivity and is becoming very visible to the HFES society and corporations throughout the world. This summer, we had a record number of students (6) receive internships at excellent companies and universities – Google, Eastman Kodak, Motorola, Hallmark, and KU Perceptual Neuroscience Lab! The department received funding for a second eye tracker (ASL EyeLink 1000) by the Office of Research Administration.

Several faculty and graduate students received training on the system and have been experimenting with its usage for experiments related to visual search, reading, driving simulation, and website design and usability. This system complements the existing Tobii 1750 owned by SURL. The faculty have been extremely busy this year with research, grants/contracts, and teaching. Here is a glimpse of some of the projects:

Dr. Victoria Shaffer has 2 grants from the Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making. Both are broadly focused on the effects of personal stories in decision aids for patients. Patient decision aids are tools that help patients make preference sensitive healthcare decisions. She is also collaborating with colleagues at U of Michigan medical school on a project examining the long-term impact of chemotherapy on the cognitive functioning of cancer patients.

Dr. Ed Merkle is currently working on (1) modeling and aggregating judged probabilities; (2) testing parameter stability in structural equation models; and (3) studying model selection methods for structural equation models. He recently had two grants from National Science Foundation.

Driving Performance and Aging

The Visual Perception and Cognition (VPC) Lab is currently investigating techniques to improve driving performance for both younger and older adults. Our younger participants will be recruited from Wichita State University while the older participants will be recruited from the local Larksfield Place. The techniques include tasks involving perceptual learning in contrast sensitivity and orientation discrimination, and training with video games. Driving performance will be measured by different driving tasks such as steering control and collision detection. We will use an ABA design, using the various driving tasks as the pre- and post-test assessment, with training as the treatment. Training will include several 1-hour sessions. Performance will be assessed within-subjects as well as between older and younger participants.

The project is funded by the Gridley-Hoover Grant (Regional Institute on Aging).

Breast Cancer Decision Making Grants

Dr. Victoria Shaffer has received a series of grants from the Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making (FIMDM) to explore the impact of first person narratives on patient medical decision making. FIMDM describes itself as “a non-profit organization dedicated to assuring that people understand their choices and have the information they need to make sound decisions affecting their health and well being.” The first grant ($100,000) explored how video testimonials from breast cancer survivors might impact treatment decisions in a hypothetical breast cancer diagnosis scenario. Data collection finished last fall and findings were presented at two annual national conferences in 2009: Medical Decision Making in Hollywood, CA and Judgment and Decision Making in Boston, MA. She has been awarded funding ($150,000 anticipated) for two additional studies extending this line of research. The first study on this new grant will use Mouselab WEB, a tool designed to track information acquisition, to explore how the content of video testimonials influences information search in a hypothetical breast cancer decision making task. The final study will use eye-tracking to determine how components like testimonials influence interaction with a web-based patient decision aid.
**Human Factors Alumnus**

Dr. Loren Groff graduated from WSU in 2002. "I was in Alex Chaparro's Visual Psychophysics lab, and had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects. A lot of the work explored changes in vision and that allocation of attention with age. I was also fortunate enough to work on an FAA-funded project looking at Human Factors issues associated with the technical manuals used for aviation maintenance."

"My dissertation used the phenomena of change-blindness to probe differences in allocation of attention. I inserted changes into videos and photos of driving and compared the ability of novice non-drivers, average experience drivers, and trained police patrol officers to detect different types of changes."

Dr. Groff is an analyst in the Office of Research and Engineering at the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The NTSB is an independent federal agency that investigates accidents, determines the probable cause, and issues recommendations to prevent future accidents. The NTSB is best known for aviation accident investigations, but the agency also investigates significant accidents in rail, highway, marine, pipeline, and hazard materials.

"Prior coming to WSU, I was a pilot. I started worked as a flight instructor and then as a pilot for Air Midwest, a regional airline based in Wichita at the time. So, I always had a interest in aviation and transportation safety research. When I quit flying to pursue graduate school, I had the NTSB in mind as a future career. My first interview was with the FAA. They were looking for someone with a specific exper-

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**HFES Student Chapter Receives Gold Status**

For the first time in its history, the WSU Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) Student Chapter obtained Gold Level recognition. Only 11 student chapters nationwide met the criteria to be awarded this honor in 2009. To receive this status, the chapter had to demonstrate that it was an active organization that promoted the ideals of human factors. The chapter hosted guest speakers currently working in the field, took field trips to human factors divisions of companies, provided service to the HFES national chapter by editing the 52nd annual HFES conference newsletter, collaborated in research with other departments, and hosted social events. Achieving this honor demonstrates that the WSU HFES Student Chapter is among the most active and thriving student chapters in the nation. The chapter has again submitted an application for the 2009-2010 academic year.

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(“Human Factors” Continued from page 8)

papers accepted for publication; one in the British Journal of Mathematical & Statistical Psychology and one in the Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics. He also spent part of his summer giving presentations at the annual meetings of the Psychometric Society and the Society for Mathematical Psychology.

**Dr. Rui Ni** is investigating (1) driving behaviors in low visibility for older drivers; (2) Improving contrast sensitivity for older adults through training; (3) Identifying AD patients using visual assessment in Beijing, China; and (4) correspondence problems in stereo vision. Last spring, he was awarded the Gridley-Hoover Aging Research Fund. He also has recently published in the journals of Vision Research and Accident Analysis & Prevention.

**Dr. Evan Palmer** is examining (1) perceptual encoding of altitude in air traffic control displays, (2) impact of distracting web advertisements on reading comprehension and brand awareness, (3) identifying the sources of improved perception and attention abilities in action video game players (4) statistical analysis of response time distributions, and (5) multiple object tracking. He has recent articles published in the journal of Vision Research, Journal of

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Adobe Flash Workshop at HFES

Adobe Flash is primarily known for its interactive animations and video capabilities for the web. It is a vector animation application that boasts a comprehensive set of tools for content creation.

The Software Usability Laboratory (SURL), has explored the capabilities of Flash as a user interface (UI) prototyping tool. They found its robust capabilities, ease of learning, cross application compatibility and the embedded UI components a good mix for designing wireframes and high and low fidelity prototypes. After successful use of this tool on numerous projects they decided to share this knowledge with the Human Factors community by conducting a full day workshop at the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society 53rd Annual Meeting held in San Antonio Texas in 2009.

My SURL lab, (Dr. Barbara Chaparro), has been busy with many industry contracts exploring user performance with a variety of mobile devices, e-commerce website usability, enterprise software design and evaluation, and requirements gathering for e-commerce website navigational structure. We are also examining the use of eye tracking measures in the assessment of website usability. Usability News (www.surl.org) continues to attract subscribers worldwide (currently over 9000!) and provides practitioners with valuable research findings related to applied HCI topics.

We are looking forward to a fantastic 2010-2011. We have six new students starting the program and at least that many nearing completion of their dissertation. If you are attending the Human Factors conference in San Francisco in September, stop by the poster session advertising our program. We always love to catch up with our alumni!

Human Factors

The workshop covered the basics of graphics design, content (prototype of a UI) creation using the tools in Flash and the embedded UI components and manipulation of the content to add interaction using ActionScript 3. The workshop was attended by more than 35 Human Factors professionals and students.

Details on the workshop can be found in the HFES proceedings:


Recent Human Factors Graduates

**Traci A. Hart** (Fall 2009) Acceptance and Adoption of Health Information Technology: An Assessment of Attitudes Toward Personal Health Records

**Satoru Tokuda** (Fall 2009) A Novel Algorithm for Predicting Mental Workload from Eye Movement Patterns

**Cindy A. Miller** (Spring 2010) The Influence of Testimonials on Decision-Making of General Aviation Pilots

("Human Factors" Continued from page 9)

**Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance** and 2 book chapters.

**Dr. Alex Chaparro** continues to investigate the Human Factors and ergonomic issues related to a universal ground control station for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). In addition, he is investigating the effects of cell phone texting on driver hazard detection, and how simulated cataracts affect participants’ ability to use visual cues to support speech perception. Alex is taking over as the chair of the department but will remain very active in the human factors program.

**Dr. Paul Ackerman** continues to serve as the Assistant Chair of the department. He recently created a new electronic database of all student information (including current, alumni, and prospective students). This provides the faculty and staff with easy access to critical information for a variety of departmental functions.

("Alumnus" Continued from page 9)

"I also do a lot of work with the NTSB’s aviation accident information. The agency maintains a database with the details of all U.S. civil aviation accidents. My colleagues and I regularly do analyses of the database for anyone who asks, and I work with international governments and industry groups to share information and standardize the information we collect.”

“The NTSB is a small agency – just under 400 total employees – and we have a lot of..."
HF Internships

This summer, the HF program has six students interning at some of the best research facilities across the U.S. Not only do the internships fulfill the WSU graduation requirements, they often lead to lucrative offers for full-time positions.

Doug Fox returned to Google in Mountain View, CA to complete a second internship. He is working with the User Experience (UX) Ads team, conducting research on Google Analytics and AdWords under the direction of Joe Karam. This summer he will be evaluating the usability of these products through various methods, including card sorts, cognitive walkthroughs, and field visits with users in the San Francisco bay area. Doug is also excited to announce that he was part of the GoogleTV team last summer in which he conducted user testing on the first ever live prototype of GoogleTV (http://www.google.com/tv/). He had to keep it a secret until they announced it earlier this summer, so now he is selflessly plugging it to everybody, including the mass of people reading this newsletter.

Veronica Hinkle interned at Hallmark Cards Inc. in the Hallmark Digital division under the direction of Ann Barthol, director of the Consumer Experience Team. Her work involved setting up consumer experience testing and feedback studies to support the development of upcoming products and address the needs of existing products. This included preparing presentations on current research findings for specific topics to facilitate requirements gathering and research and development endeavors, conducting benchmarking analyses, developing and implementing survey and test plans to address existing and upcoming research needs for the Digital team, and setting up processes to track the impact of usability improvements on specific web analytics. Veronica was very excited for this opportunity to learn first hand about how HCI relates to consumer behavior in online and traditional retail environments, marketing strategies, and branding.

Nichole Morris interned at the University of Kansas in the Perceptual Neuroscience Laboratory under the direction of Dr. Ed Auer. She worked on experimental projects examining facial and acoustic traits of a vowel spaces using spectral analysis and motion capture technology. Nichole is designing a project using these methods to examine the inter- and intra-talker variability under normal and mimicking speaking conditions. Additionally, Nichole is receiving fMRI training.

Shiva Naidu worked at Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, NY. He worked in the Digital Capture and Devices User Experience Group under the tutelage of Jack Yu. His work involved providing Human Factors support for the development of future Kodak digital cameras and digital picture frames. His most unique experience was working on an Agile user interface development project, which will be implemented on all 2011 digital cameras.

Justin Owens interned at Google in Kirkland, WA this summer working for the User Experience (UX) research team under the direction of Dawn Shaikh. His work involved building a better user experience on Google products. This included A/B testing, surveys, focus panels and usability testing on Google products.

Amanda Smith is a Human Factors Research and Design summer intern at Motorola’s Libertyville campus in Illinois. She works closely with Jeremy Slocum and under the direction of Susan Winslow within the Consumer Experience Design (CXD) Human Factors group. Assigned projects run the gamut of all things mobile, from comparative analyses of voice recognition software to user evaluations of novel input methods and devices. Most user tests are conducted in downtown Chicago. Working in the world of mobile devices is challenging, but she credits her experience gained on projects through NIAR and SURL as the best preparation for designing and running experiments, analyzing data, and writing reports. Aside from the excellent experience of being a Motorolan, other perks include a free membership to a gym with a rock climbing wall, easy access to beautiful running/biking trails at the Half Day Forest Preserve, the Chicago Water Taxi, and delicious deep dish pizza.

(“Alumni” Continued from page 10)

opportunities for internal collaboration. We regularly work with colleagues at other federal agencies, like the Federal Aviation Administration; with various industry groups; and manufacturers. We also work closely with our counterparts in other countries, particularly with regard to sharing safety-related information. We also have opportunities to collaborate with academia. For example, last year I was a co-author on a paper with researchers from the Johns Hopkins, School of Public Health.”

“My wife Trinda and I have two daughters, ages 3 and 7 who are very active. When I’m not working for the NTSB, I enjoy spending time with my kids and working on our house. I like to fly RC planes and helicopters. Several co-workers and I have taken up model aviation. Being an accident investigators, we have even equipped them with extras like flight data recorders and cameras to review our flights.”

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Recent Publications: 2009-Present

(Students, Faculty, and Alumni are bolded)


paschal, a., ni, r., merkle, e.c., merkle, e., medvene, l.j., & lewis

Reactions among African American Teen Fathers.


Vaux, L. M., Ni, R., Rizzo, M., Uc, E.Y., Andersen, G. J. (2010). Detection of Imminent Collisions by Drivers with Alzheimer’s Disease and Parkinson’s Disease. Accident Analysis & Prevention, 42(3), 852-858


Judy and Marci have been in the psychology office for a combined total of 45 years. They act as facilitators among faculty, students, and the community. Contact them with updates at: Judy.Barnes@wichita.edu Marsyl.Nelson@wichita.edu